CLAIMS

1. A method of digital image processing in which an object is excised from a first digitised image and pasted on to a second digitised image, the method including the steps of

identifying a set of pixels corresponding to the object, and within that set which pixels correspond to the edge(s) of the object and which to the interior,

for each pixel corresponding to the edge(s) of the object assigning a contribution factor dependent upon the parameters associated with its immediate neighbours including other edge pixels, pixels corresponding to the interior of the object and peripheral background pixels corresponding to the parts of the first digitised image which lie outside the excised object but adjacent its edge(s),

substituting for the parameters associated with each edge pixel of the set parameters based on the contribution factor and on the parameters associated with the peripheral background pixels of the second digitised image,

and constructing a new digitised image file from the pixels of the second digitised image not located at positions corresponding to the pixels of the excised object, the pixels of the interior of the object, and the edge pixels with substituted parameters.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the edge pixels of the set are identified by carrying out an image segmentation process as described in WO 03/052696.

3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein the contribution factor is calculated by a method including locating in colour space

a first point corresponding to the colour of pixels adjacent or near the respective edge pixel and assigned to the set of interior pixels,

a second point corresponding to the colour of pixels adjacent or near the respective edge pixel and being peripheral background pixels,

and calculating the contribution factor dependent upon the position along the line of the point on the line in colour space connecting the first point and the second point closest to the point in colour space corresponding to the edge pixel for which the contribution factor is to be calculated.

4. A method according to Claim 3 where the contribution factors for the edge pixels are first calculated for all edge pixels in respect of which the surrounding eight pixels include both interior pixels and peripheral background pixels, thereafter for those of the remaining edge pixels in respect of which the surrounding 24 pixels include both interior pixels and peripheral background pixels, and, in respect of any still incalculable pixels, taking into account a greater number of pixels surrounding the respective edge pixel.